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in Claim 1, in which the printing data generated by the printing data generation function is dot image data.

In the invention claimed in Claim 2, the printing data generation function generates printing data as dot image data. In other words, if the printing data based on dot image data is used, the printer can print the printing data as inputted into it. Therefore, it is not necessary to equip the printer with a font ROM, neither is it necessary for a processor to perform printing data generation processing based on a page description language. It is consequently possible to make the printer simpler in structure.

In the host computer that executes the program of this invention, there are various methods of monitoring the output initiation instruction. As an example, the invention claimed in Claim 3 is the medium defined in Claim 1 or 2, in which it constitutes part of the status information data in the printer whether the output initiation instruction exists or not. The output initiation instruction monitor function monitors whether the output initiation instruction is contained in the status information data acquired by the status information acquisition function on the host side.

In the invention claimed in Claim 3, it constitutes part of the status information data in the printer whether the output initiation instruction exists. The status information

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acquisition function on the host side of the host computer, which runs the program of this invention, has acquired the status information data from the printer. The output initiation instruction monitor function monitors whether the acquired status information data contains the output initiation instruction. Because the host computer has acquired with the status information acquisition function on the host side the status information data including the data as to whether the output initiation instruction exists, the computer can judge if the output initiation instruction exists by monitoring the status information data with the output initiation instruction monitor function. The status information acquisition function on the host side may periodically acquire status information data, or alternatively may acquire the newest data any time there is a change in the status information.

As another example of the structure for monitoring the output initiation instruction in the host computer, which executes the program of this invention, the invention claimed in Claim 4 is the medium defined in Claim 1 or 2, in which the output initiation instruction is a trigger transmitted from the printer through the two-way communication. The output initiation instruction monitor function judges whether the trigger is received.

In the invention claimed in Claim 4, the output initiation

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instruction is a trigger transmitted from the printer through the two-way communication. The output initiation instruction monitor function of the host computer, which executes the program of this invention, determines whether the trigger is received through the two-way communication. The printer can output a trigger as an output initiation instruction through the two-way communication. The output initiation instruction monitor function monitors the trigger. When the trigger is received, the printing data generation function may generate the printing data.

The status information data may be generated only when it needs generating so that the status information can be printed. Therefore, if the printer is adapted to output status information data after outputting a trigger, it is possible to reduce the memory capacity for the storage of status information data by outputting in real time the status information data acquired in the printer, or by successively outputting a predetermined amount of status information data after storing it in the memory.

As stated above, the host computer acquires the status information from the printer and outputs the printing data generated in itself. However, if the printer is jammed or fails otherwise, it can perform no printing, so that no status information may be acquired. As an example suitable for such a case, the invention claimed in Claim 5 is the medium defined